

SIN

To SINGE. *v. a.* [*sangan*, Saxon; *senghen*, Dutch.] To scorch; to burn slightly or superficially.

They bound the doctor,
Whose beard they have *sing'd* off with brands of fire. *Shak.*
You sulph'rous and thought executing fires,
Singe my white head. *Shakespeare.*
Drake, in the vaunting file of a soldier, would call this enterprize the *singing* of the king of Spain's beard. *Bacon.*
That neither was *singed* in the combustion of Phaeton, nor overwhelmed by the inundation of Deucalion. *Brown.*
They leave a *singed* bottom all invol'd
With stench and smoke. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
I *singed* the toes of an ape through a burning glass, and he never would endure it after. *L'Estrange.*
Thus riding on his curls he seem'd to pass
A rolling fire along, and *singe* the grass. *Dryden.*

SINGER. *n. f.* [*from sing.*] One that sings; one whose profession or business is to sing.

His silencing was like an unskillful singer, he kept not time. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*
I gat me men *singers* and women *singers*, and the delights of the sons of men. *Ecc. ii. 8.*

To the chief *singer* on my fringed instruments. *Hab. iii.*
Thy heart no ruder than the rugged stone,
I might, like Orpheus, with my num'rous moan
Melt to compassion: now my trait'rous song
With thee conspires to do the *singer* wrong. *Waller.*
Cockbirds amongst *singing* birds are ever the better *singers*, because they are more lively. *Bacon's Natural History.*

The birds know how to chufe their fare;
To peck this fruit they all forbear:
Those cheerful *singers* know not why
They should make any haste to die. *Waller.*
The Grecian tragedy was at first nothing but a chorus of *singers*. *Dryden.*

SINGINGMASTER. *n. f.* [*sing* and *master*.] One who teaches to sing.

He employed an itinerant *singingmaster* to instruct them rightly in the tunes of the psalms. *Addison's Spectator.*

SINGLE. *adj.* [*singulus*, Latin.]

1. One; not double; not more than one.

The words are clear and easy, and their originals are of single signification without any ambiguity. *South.*

Some were *single* acts, though each compleat;
But every act stood ready to repeat. *Dryden.*

Then Theseus join'd with bold Pirithous came,
A *single* concord in a double name. *Dryden.*

High Alba,
A lonely desert, and an empty land,
Shall scarce afford, for needful hours of rest,
A *single* house to their benighted guest. *Addison on Italy.*

Where the poetry or oratory shines, a *single* reading is not sufficient to satisfy a mind that has a true taste; nor can we make the fullest improvement of them without proper reviews. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

2. Particular; individual.

As no *single* man is born with a right of controuling the opinions of all the rest, so the world has no title to demand the whole time of any particular person. *Pope.*

If one *single* word were to express but one simple idea, and nothing else, there would be scarce any mistake. *Watts.*

3. Not compounded.

As simple ideas are opposed to complex, and *single* ideas to compound, so propositions are distinguished: the English tongue has some advantage above the learned languages, which have no usual word to distinguish *single* from simple. *Watts.*

4. Alone; having no companion; having no assistant.

Servant of God, well hast thou fought
The better fight, who *single* hast maintain'd
Against revolted multitudes the cause of truth. *Milton.*

His wisdom such,
Three kingdoms wonder, and three kingdoms fear,
Whilst *single* he stood forth. *Denham.*

In sweet possession of the fairy place,
Single and conscious to myself alone,
Of pleasures to th' excluded world unknown. *Dryden.*

5. Unmarried.

Is the *single* man therefore blest? no: as a walled town is more worthy than a village, so is the forehead of a married man more honourable than the bare brow of a bachelor. *Shak.*

Pygmalion
Abhor'd all womankind, but most a wife;
So *single* chose to live, and thunn'd to wed,
Well pleas'd to want a consort of his bed. *Dryden.*

6. Not complicated; not duplicated.

To make flowers double is effected by often removing them into new earth; as, on the contrary, double flowers, by neglecting and not removing, prove *single*. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

7. Pure; uncorrupt; not double minded; simple. A scriptural sense.

The light of the body is the eye: if thine eye be *single*, thy whole body shall be full of light. *Mat. vi. 22.*

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8. That in which one is opposed to one.

He, when his country, threaten'd with alarms,
Shall more than once the Punick bands affright,
Shall kill the Gaulish king in *single* fight. *Dryden's Z.*

To SINGLE. *v. a.* [*from the adjective*.]

1. To chufe out from among others.

I saw him in the battle range about,
And how he *sing'd* Clifford forth. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

Every man may have a peculiar favour, which although not perceptible unto man, yet sensible unto dogs, who hereby can *single* out their master in the dark. *Brown.*

Do'st thou already *single* me? I thought
Gyves and the mill had tam'd thee. *Milton's Agonistes.*

Begin, auspicious boy, to cast about
Thy infant eyes, and with a smile thy mother *single* out. *Dry.*

Single the lowliest of the am'rous youth;
Ask for his vows, but hope not for his truth. *Prior.*

2. To sequester; to withdraw.

Yea simply, faith Basil, and universally, whether it be in works of nature, or of voluntary choice, I see not any thing done as it should be, if it be wrought by an agent *singling* itself from comforts. *Hooker.*

3. To take alone.

Many men there are, than whom nothing is more commendable when they are *singled*; and yet, in society with others, none less fit to answer the duties which are looked for at their hands. *Hooker.*

4. To separate.

Hardly they heard, which by good hunters *singled* are. *Sidon.*

SINGLESNESS. *n. f.* [*from single*.] Simplicity; sincerity; honest plainness.

It is not the deepness of their knowledge, but the *singleness* of their belief, which God accepteth. *Hooker.*

SINGLY. *adv.* [*from single*.]

1. Individually; particularly.

If the injured person be not righted, every one of them is wholly guilty of the injustice, and therefore bound to restitution *singly* and intirely. *Taylor's Rule of Living hab.*

They tend to the perfection of human nature, and to make men *singly* and personally good, or tend to the happiness of society. *Tillotson's Sermon.*

2. Only; by himself.

Look thee, 'tis so; thou *singly* honest man,
Here take the gods out of my misery
Have sent thee treasure. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

3. Without partners or associates.

Belinda
Burns to encounter two adventurous knights,
At ombre *singly* to decide their doom. *Pope.*

4. Honestly; simply; sincerely.

SINGULAR. *adj.* [*singularis*, Fr. *singularis*, Latin.]

1. Single; not complex; not compound.

That idea which represents one particular determinate thing is called a *singular* idea, whether simple, complex, or compound. *Watts.*

2. [In grammar.] Expressing only one; not plural.

If St. Paul's speaking of himself in the first person *singular* has so various meanings, his use of the first person plural has a greater latitude. *Lact.*

3. Particular; unexampled.

So *singular* a sadness
Must have a cause as strange as the effect. *Denham's Sabine.*

4. Having something not common to others. It is commonly used in a sense of disapprobation, whether applied to persons or things.

His zeal
None seconded, as *singular* and rash. *Milton.*

It is very commendable to be *singular* in any excellency, and religion is the greatest excellency: to be *singular* in any thing that is wise and worthy is not a disparagement, but a praise. *Tillotson.*

5. Alone; that of which there is but one.

These bulls of the emperors and empresses are all very scarce, and some of them almost *singular* in their kind. *Addison.*

SINGULARITY. *n. f.* [*singularitas*, Fr. *singularité*.]

1. Some character or quality by which one is distinguished from others.

Pliny addeth this *singularity* to that soil, that the second year the very falling down of the seeds yieldeth corn. *Raleigh.*

Though, according to the practice of the world, it be singular for men thoroughly to live up to the principles of their religion, yet *singularity* in this matter is a singular commendation of it. *Tillotson's Sermon.*

I took notice of this little figure for the *singularity* of the instrument: it is not unlike a violin. *Addison on Italy.*

2. Any thing remarkable; a curiosity.

Your gallery
Have we pass'd through, not without much content
In many *singularities*; but we saw not
That which my daughter came to look upon,
The statue of her mother. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*

3. Particular

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Particular privilege or prerogative.

St. Gregory, being himself a bishop of Rome, and writing against the title of universal bishop, saith thus: none of all my predecessors ever consented to use this ungodly title; no bishop of Rome ever took upon him this name of *singularity*. *Hooker.*

4. Character or manners different from those of others.

The spirit of *singularity* in a few ought to give place to public judgment. *Hooker.*

Singularity in sin puts it out of fashion, since to be alone in any practice seems to make the judgment of the world against it; but the concurrence of others is a tacit approbation of that in which they concur. *South.*

To SINGULARIZE. *v. a.* [*se singulariser*, Fr. *from singular*.]

To make single.

SINGULARLY. *adv.* [*from singular*.] Particularly; in a manner not common to others.

Solitude and singularity can neither daunt nor disgrace him, unless we could suppose it a disgrace to be *singularly* good. *South.*

SINGULUS. *n. f.* [*singulus*, Latin.] A sigh. *Spenser.*

SINISTER. *adj.* [*sinister*, Latin.]

1. Being on the left hand; left; not right; not dexter.

My mother's blood
Runs on the dexter cheek, and this *sinister*
Bounds in my fire's. *Shakespeare. Troilus and Cressida.*

2. Bad; perverse; corrupt; deviating from honesty; unfair.

Is it so strange a matter to find a good thing furthered by ill men of a *sinister* intent and purpose, whose forwardness is not therefore a bribe to such as favour the same cause with a better and sincere meaning. *Hooker.*

The duke of Clarence was soon after by *sinister* means made clean away. *Spenser on Ireland.*

When there are more unworthy men chosen to offices, when there are more strife and contention about elections, or when do partial and *sinister* affections more utter themselves, than when an election is committed to many? *Whitgift.*

He professes to have received no *sinister* measure from his judge, but most willfully humbles himself to the determination of justice. *Shakespeare. Measure for Measure.*

Those may be accounted the left hands of courts; persons that are full of nimble and *sinister* tricks and shifts, whereby they pervert the plain courses of courts, and bring justice into oblique lines and labyrinths. *Bacon's Essays.*

The just person has given the world an assurance, by the constant tenor of his practice, that he makes a conscience of his ways, and that he seems to undermine another's interest by any *sinister* or inferior arts. *South.*

3. [*Sinistre*, French.] Unlucky; inauspicious.

Tempt it again: that is thy act, or none:
What all the fœval ills that visit earth,
Brought forth by night, with a *sinister* birth,
Plagues, famine, fire, could not reach unto,
The sword, nor surfeits, let thy fury do. *Brown's John.*

SINISTROUS. *adj.* [*sinister*, Latin.] Aburd; perverse; wrong-headed.

A knave or fool can do no harm, even by the most *sinistrous* and absurd choice. *Bentley.*

SINISTROUSLY. *adv.* [*from sinister*.]

1. With a tendency to the left.

Many in their infancy are *sinistrously* disposed, and divers continue all their life left-handed, and have but weak and imperfect use of the right. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

2. Perversely; absurdly.

To SINK. *v. n.* pret. *I sunk*, anciently *sank*; part. *sunk* or *sunken*. [*sencan*, Saxon; *sinken*, German.]

1. To fall down through any medium; not to swim; to go to the bottom.

Make his chronicle as rich with prize,
As is the oozy bottom of the sea
With *sunk* on wreck and sunless treasures. *Shakespeare. H. V.*

In with the river *sunk*, and with it rose,
Satan, involv'd in rising mist; then fought
Where to lie hid. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*

2. To sink or *sink*, or waives, or creeps or flies. *Milton.*

The pirate *sinks* with his ill-gotten gains,
And nothing to another's use remains. *Dryden.*

3. To enter or penetrate into any body.

David took a stone and flung it, and smote the Philistine, that the stone *sunk* into his forehead. *1 Sa. xvii. 49.*

4. To enter or penetrate into any body.

2 Kings ix. 24.

5. To enter or penetrate into any body.

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4. To lose height: to fall to a level.

In vain has nature form'd
Mountains and oceans to oppose his passage;
He bounds o'er all, victorious in his march;
The Alps and Pyreneans *sink* before him. *Addison's Cato.*

5. To lose or want prominence.

What were his marks?—A lean cheek, a blue eye and sunken. *Shakespeare. As you like it.*

Deep dinted wrinkles on her cheeks she draws;
Sunk are her eyes, and toothless are her jaws. *Dryden.*

6. To be overwhelmed or depressed.

Our country *sinks* beneath the yoke;
It weeps, it bleeds, and each new day a gash
Is added to her wounds. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

They arraign'd shall *sink*
Beneath thy sentence. *Milton.*

But if you this ambitious pray'r deny,
Then let me *sink* beneath proud Arcite's arms;
And, I once dead, let him possess her charms. *Dryden.*

7. To be received; to be impressed.

Let these sayings *sink* down into your ears. *Lu. ix. 44.*
Truth never *sinks* into these mens minds, nor gives any tincture to them. *Locke.*

8. To decline; to decrease; to decay.

This republic has been much more powerful than it is at present, as it is still likelier to *sink* than increase in its dominions. *Addison on Italy.*

Let not the fire *sink* or slacken, but increase. *Mortimer.*

9. To fall into rest or indolence.

Would'st thou have me *sink* away
In pleasing dreams, and lose myself in love,
When every moment Cato's life's at stake? *Addison's Cato.*

10. To fall into any state worse than the former; to tend to ruin.

Nor urg'd the labours of my lord in vain,
A *sinking* empire longer to sustain. *Dryden's Aen.*

To SINK. *v. a.*

1. To put under water; to dislodge from swimming or floating.

A small fleet of English made an hostile invasion, or incursion, upon their havens and roads, and fired, *sunk*, and carried away ten thousand ton of their great shipping, besides smaller vessels. *Bacon.*

2. To delve; to make by delving.

At Saga in Germany they dig up iron in the fields by *sinking* ditches two foot deep, and in the space of ten years the ditches are digged again for iron since produced. *Boyle.*

Near Geneva are quarries of freestone, that run under the lake: when the water is at lowest, they make within the borders of it a little square, inclosed within four walls: in this square they *sink* a pit, and dig for freestone. *Addison.*

3. To deprels; to degrade.

A mighty king I am, an earthly god;
I raise or *sink*, imprison or set free;
And life or death depends on my decree. *Prior.*

Trifling painters or sculptors bestow infinite pains upon the most insignificant parts of a figure, till they *sink* the grandeur of the whole. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

4. To plunge into destruction.

Heav'n bear witness,
And if I have a conscience let it *sink* me,
Ev'n as the ax falls, if I be not faithful. *Shakespeare.*

5. To make to fall.

These are so far from raising mountains, that they overturn and fling down some before standing, and undermine others, *sinking* them into the abyss. *Woodward.*

6. To bring low; to diminish in quantity.

When on the banks of an unlook'd-for stream,
You *sunk* the river with repeated draughts,
Who was the last in all your host that thirsted? *Addison.*

7. To crush; to overbear; to deprels.

That Hector was in certainty of death, and depressed with the conscience of an ill cause: if you will not grant the first of these will *sink* the spirit of a hero, you'll at least allow the second may. *Pope.*

8. To lessen; to diminish.

They catch at all opportunities of ruining our trade, and *sinking* the figure which we make. *Addison on the War.*

I mean not that we should *sink* our figure out of covetousness, and deny ourselves the proper conveniences of our station, only that we may lay up a superfluous treasure. *Rogers.*

9. To make to decline.

Thy cruel and unnatural lust of power
Has *sunk* thy father more than all his years,
And made him wither in a green old age.
To labour for a *sunk* corrupted state. *Rowe.*

10. To suppress; to conceal; to intercept.

If sent with ready money to buy any thing, and you happen to be out of pocket, *sink* the money, and take up the goods on account. *Swift's Rules to Servants.*

SINK. *n. f.* [*sunc*, Saxon.]

1. A drain; a jakes.

Should by the cormorant tell'd be restrain'd,
Who is the *sink* o' th' body. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*

2. A drain; a jakes.

3. A drain; a jakes.

4. A drain; a jakes.